

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0022] and [0027] with the following paragraphs rewritten in amendment format:

[0022] With reference to the drawings, embodiments of the present invention will now be described. Figs. 1 to 7 show a fastener 1 for a pipe or the like, according a first embodiment of the present invention. Figs. 1, 2 and 3 are a top plan view, front view and bottom view of the fastener 1, respectively. Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along the line A-A of Fig. 2, and Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken along the line B-B of Fig. 3. Fig. 6 shows the state that the fastener 1 is engaged with a stud 3 standing on a body panel 2 of an automobile body or the like as a workpiece to mount various pipes on the workpiece. Fig. 7 shows the state that the fastener 1 is mounted on another panel 5 different from the body panel 2 by using a panel engagement portion formed in the fastener 1. The fastener 1 for a pipe or the like according to the present invention is made in a one-piece component of plastic material. As shown in Figs. 1 to 3, the fastener 1 comprises a base portion 6 and pipe holding portions 7, 8 9 connected integrally with the base portion 22. The base portion 6 is formed in an elongated configuration for allowing each of the pipe holding portions to hold a plurality of pipes in parallel. A stud engagement portion 10 is disposed in the center region of the base portion to engage with the stud. The pipe holding portion 7 is formed to hold, for example, three fuel oil pipes, and the pipe holding portion 9 is formed to hold, for example, one fuel pipe and two brake oil pipes. Each pipe receiving portion of these pipe holding portions 7, 9 is formed in a configuration allowing a pipe to be pushed

thereinto and held therewithin. Each of the pipe holding portions 7, 9 is also formed in a configuration allowing the connection portion to the base portion 6 to be minimized in size so as to prevent vibration from being transmitted to the base portion 6. For example, a plurality of the fastener 1 are attached, respectively, to a plurality of positions of a long pipe, and are then attached, respectively, to a plurality of the studs at separate predetermined positions of the body panel.

[0027] Each of the stud engagement portion side walls 17 and the columns 44 19 is formed with stoppers 31 for restricting the movement of the support portion 14 in the direction of getting out of the stud to prevent the support portion from excessively moving downward. In Figs. 2 and 4, when a strong downward force is applied to the base portion 6 due to an external force to the pipes etc, the support portion 14 simultaneously moves downward or in the direction of getting out of the stud. By this downward movement, the region of the thin connection portion 25 close to the support portion 14 is dragged downward. On the other hand, the stud engagement portion 10 stands against the downward movement because it is engaging with the stud on the body panel. Thus, only the region of the thin connection portion 25 close to the support portion 14 could be dragged downward, resulting in breaking or rupture of the thin connection portion 25. The stopper 31 prevents the support portion 14 from moving downward with respect to the stud engagement portion or in the direction of getting out of the stud to the extent of causing the destruction of the thin connection portion 25. More specifically, the triangular stoppers 31 ~~is~~ are provided on each of both the front and back sides of each of the side walls of the stud engagement portion and the

columns 19, with protruding to a position immediately below the upper region 23 of the support portion 14. By virtue these stoppers 31, even if the main body of the base portion 6 including the support portion 14 is applied with an excessive force in the direction of getting away from the body panel along the axis of the stud, the support portion 14 is brought into contact with the stoppers 31 and thereby cannot move with respect to the stud engagement portion 10 any more. This restricts the movement of the support portion 14 in a constant range so as to prevent any destruction or breaking of the thin connection portion 25.